GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:410
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EU AND JAPAN
Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is currently engaged in free trade negotiations with EU and Japan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of such negotiations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement with European Union (EU) and a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Japan.

An India-EU High Level Trade Group (HLTG) between India and EU was established at the 6th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi in September 2005 to explore ways and means to widen and broaden the economic relationship and explore the possibility of a Trade and Investment Agreement. The HLTG submitted its report to the 7th India-EU Summit held in Helsinki in October 2007. The Summit decided that the two sides should enter into negotiations for a Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement covering areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Customs Cooperation & Trade Facilitation, Dispute Settlement, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights. So far, five rounds of negotiations between India and European Commission have been held. Negotiations, are still in the initial stages.

As regards CEPA with Japan, negotiations covering Trade in Goods, Services, Investment, Rules of Origin, Customs Facilitation and other areas of economic cooperation are going on since January 2007. So far 10 round of negotiations have taken place. The negotiations are not yet complete and hence it is premature to give the outcome.